

Hopkinton Senior Recreation Committee

Minutes of Meeting of June 15, 2009

Members Present: Marilyn Ceriello Bresaw, Janet Krzyzaniak, Lillian Landry, Don Lane, George Langwasser, Justin LaVigne, Allita Paine, Gloria Symonds, Joanne Woodward

Members Absent: none

Others Present: Merle Dustin

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 1:35 pm by Chairperson Janet Krzyzaniak.

Approval of Minutes: A motion to approve the minutes of the Hopkinton SRC meeting of May 18th was made by Don Lane, seconded by Joanne Woodward; members voted in the affirmative.

Business: Road Trips: Having heard that some seniors might be interested in group day trips, Justin LaVigne brought the idea to the SRC for discussion. The challenge is to get 50 seniors in Contoocook/Hopkinton to go in order to cover the cost of the bus which is approximately \$1,000 to \$1,500, depending on the destination. The Red Sox trip was a sell-out (47 seats). Casino trips split with Bow have worked well but the Bow group is a private entity, not the town recreation department. Pairing up with the New London Recreation Department is a possibility. Lillian Landry said that she has received notice of two trips for seniors out of Concord for \$89 and Justin said that Bow is offering a lobster bake in Maine for \$50 - \$80 per person. Justin suggested offering a trip to the theater in Ogunquit, shopping in Boston, or the 9/11 site and other activities in New York City. Justin said that instead of making all the arrangements himself, GeoDon could be contracted to do both the driving and the arranging; the Slusser Center front desk would have to take responsibility for collecting application forms and checks. Janet Krzyzaniak said that trips might attract community seniors who have not yet participated in Slusser Center programs as long as we can get the word out. SRC members agreed to further explore general interest in trips; Justin will ask those present at the Wednesday meal about their interest and, based on the response, he may ask GeoDon to give a presentation.

Updates: Barn Storage: Don Lane reported that he recently talked with Hermie and Hermie is planning to clean the barn and get it ready to use for storage. Plywood may be needed to level the floor and SRC members agreed that Bazaar funds could be used to purchase the plywood. Lillian Landry said that the bins she recently put in the barn are already covered with dirt and that tarps must be used to cover everything; one of 3 tarps is in place and the other two need to be located. Justin LaVigne reported that the shelves from Columbia Hall are ready to be put up but will require either a leveled floor or attachment to the stalls in order to be useable. Some of the broken windows have been fixed but birds are still finding their way into the barn as well as a woodchuck which is causing damage.

Slusser Senior Center Service Corps: Road Clean-Up: Two crews have materialized to date: Allita Paine and Philip Fitts who cleaned the full extent of Park Avenue over a 4-day period, totaling 24 man hours and Mona Lane and Marilyn Patz who cleaned a section of Gould Hill Road and plan to do so monthly. In an after-action report, Allita recommended that a high school class studying the environment might be asked to get involved; Don Lane may follow up with the school board regarding this suggestion. The constant bending required to pick up cigarette butts is tough for many seniors so they may need to forget the butts and pick up only those items attainable with a reacher or stick with a nail. More people are needed for this project.

Slusser Senior Center Participation in 4th of July Celebration: Justin LaVigne reported that Joanne Woodward and Judy Sanborn are managing the Senior Center bake sale table and have 8 people to bake to date. Gloria Symonds reported that the line dance performance by seniors will take place outside, to be at a central viewing area, rather than inside the Center; therefore, it will be a short performance because of possible heat/sun. Allita Paine said that she and Merle Dustin will assure coverage at the Slusser Senior Center which will be open to the public from 12 noon to 3 pm; assisting will be Betsy Russell, 12:30-2:30 pm, and Gloria Symonds, 2-3 pm, after her dance performance. The Center DVD will be shown continuously and available Fall Sale raffle items, including the American Girl doll and wardrobe, will be on display. Don Lane will try to get a glass showcase for the doll and her clothes.

Newsletter: Janet Krzyzaniak asked about the status of the newsletter that the SRC voted to initiate at last month's meeting. Don Lane stated that he is meeting with Sara Darby and Karen Robertson regarding layout tomorrow. Don needs ideas for articles. Janet suggested that SRC members write and send ideas/articles to Don Lane with copies to Janet and Lillian. Justin LaVigne asked how this newsletter would effect the one he is working toward, a 4 page newsletter to be published 4 times a year, cost free as long as he can get 3 to 5 local advertisers. SRC members decided that we should move ahead with writing/submitting stories which would be incorporated into the Recreation Department's newsletter if that comes to fruition by August; if it does not, we could publish the one page (two-sided) Slusser Senior Center newsletter in August. SRC members will each send a list of possible advertisers to Justin as soon as possible.

NH Conference on Aging: Janet Krzyzaniak and Gloria Symonds attended the NH Conference on Aging on May 28th in Manchester; they found it to be well-organized with excellent speakers. Janet reported on a session about managing stress. A person may say something that makes you angry, but in actuality, you are making yourself angry by your reaction; it's up to each of us to control our own stress level. There was a lot of information for older people, such as about assisted living and reverse mortgages. Gloria will report on a session about exercise at the July SRC meeting.

Other Business: Signage: Don Lane said that a new street sign for the Slusser Senior Center, Library, and The Fields has been designed by Morgan's Signs with a price tag of \$4,000. The library will contribute \$1,000; Friends of the Library, \$500; and the lacross organization, \$250. He asked that we contribute \$1,000 from the original building donations, of which \$2,000 remains. Janet Krzyzaniak said that the Center needs a new copier which might come from the building donations fund; Justin LaVigne said that a good copier would cost \$5,000-\$7,000 and that he is requesting one in next year's budget. Members expressed opinions that the copier is needed in order for Marilyn and Justin to do their work; George Langwasser stated that the town has an obligation to purchase a working copier for the Recreation and Social Services Departments. Allita Paine moved that \$1,000 be transferred out of the building donations funds into the budget line for the new sign; JoAnne seconded the motion and the SRC voted unanimously in the affirmative.

Building Improvements: Merle Dustin is having a trellis windbreaker installed at the end of the porch. The work will be completed as soon as possible, perhaps by July 4th. She is also looking into a foot grate scraper for the Center entrance; she knows several people who are interested in contributing money for this. If more money is needed, she suggested that the building donation funds might be used to supplement the donations.

Publicity: Justin LaVigne reported that the article about the Volunteer of the Year celebration, written by Allita Paine, has been sent out with a photo to a number of local newspapers as well as the town website. Don Lane said that Mona had seen it but couldn't recall in which newspaper; it has not been published in the Concord Monitor yet. It was discussed that Janet Krzyzaniak should write an article about the flower garden project.

Justin's Role: Justin LaVigne reminded the SRC that he is not only the Director of the Slusser Senior Center but also the Director of Recreation for the town of Hopkinton. As such, he has a lot going on, the summer being his very busiest season. He noted that he is the only person in the state that has this dual responsibility (to the surprise of the senior center directors from around the state who recently met here).

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 pm on a motion by George Langwasser, seconded by Lillian Landry.

The next meeting of the Hopkinton Senior Recreation Committee is scheduled Monday, July20, 2009, at 1:30 pm, at the Slusser Senior Center.

/AHP